

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A composite fabric for use in reinforcement of cementitious boards and similar prefabricated building wall panels. The fabric includes an open mesh first component of continuously coated, high modulus of elasticity strands and a nonwoven second component fabricated from alkali resistant thermoplastic material. The high modulus strands of the first component are preferably bundled glass fibers encapsulated by alkali and water resistant thermoplastic material. The composite fabric also has suitable physical characteristics for embedment within the cement matrix of the panels or boards closely adjacent the opposed faces thereof. The reinforcement provides long-lasting, high strength tensile reinforcement and impact resistance for the panels or boards. The reinforcement also enables the boards to have smooth outer faces suitable for painting, papering, tiling or other finishing treatment. Included as part of the invention are methods for making the reinforcement, cementitious boards and panels including the reinforcement, and methods for manufacturing such boards and panels.